

Prof. L. Caesar.

Renewed Cutworm Outbreak Expected 1932

— IN —

Saskatchewan and Alberta

The pale western cutworm caused severe losses in Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1931. The losses will be greater in 1932 if weather conditions are average; even a very wet spring will only partially check the immediate ravages.

Do you Live in the Threatened Zone?

Turn the page and note if your district is in the infested area.

Every dot on the map represents an area of severe loss from this insect in 1931. Some districts lost more than 50 per cent of their crop. Other districts would have lost even more than this had there been any crop.

Is your Locality in the Shaded Area?

The shaded area will probably have serious trouble in 1932 because of the abundance of pale western cutworms in the fields.

Unshaded areas are expected to have little or no trouble from this cutworm in 1932.

Be sure to get information regarding this cutworm.

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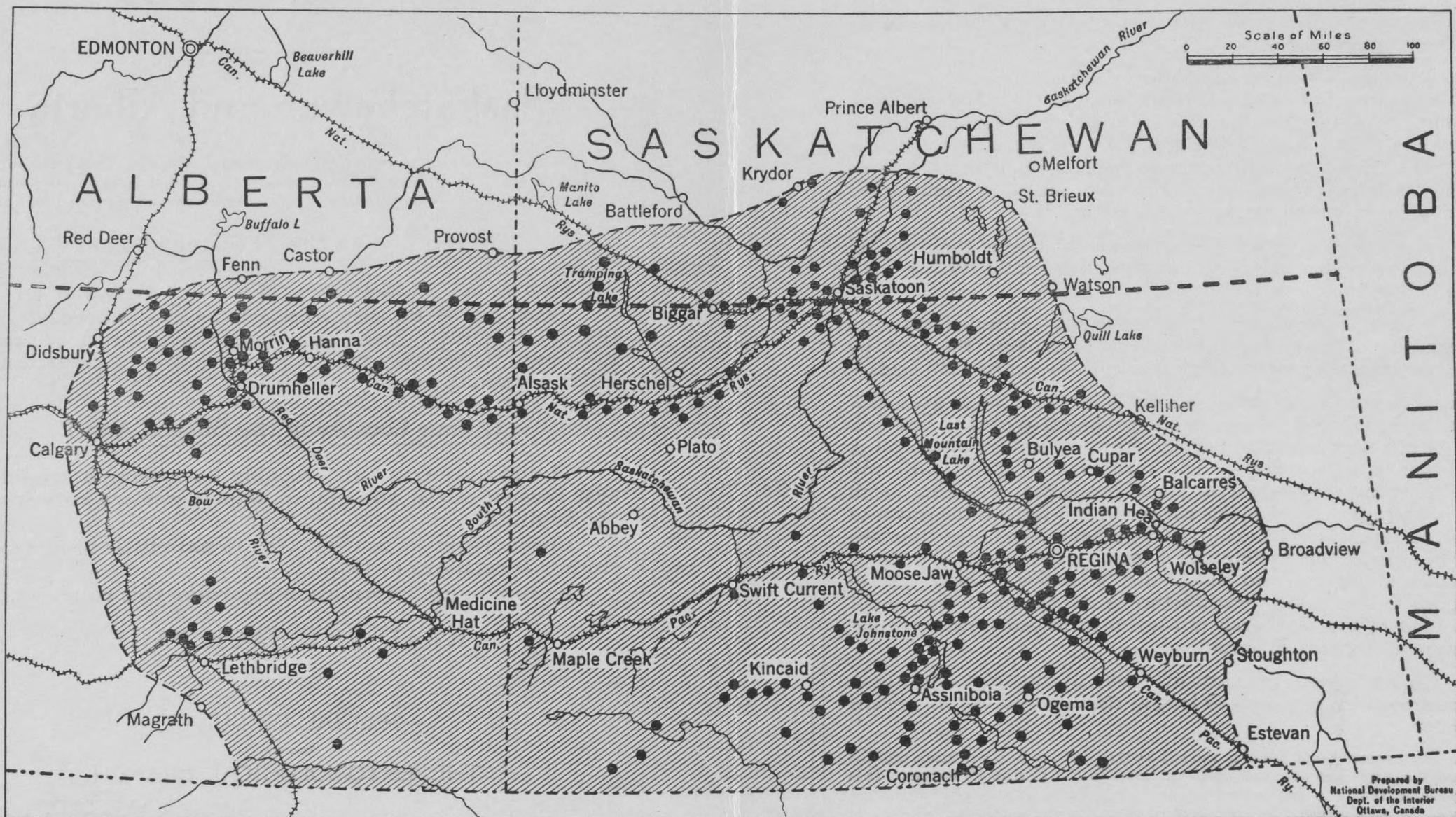
THE ENTOMOLOGICAL BRANCH

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Map Showing Area Expected to be Infested by Pale Western Cutworm in Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1932



Shaded area will probably have serious trouble from cutworms in 1932.

The solid dots (.) on the map indicate where losses from cutworms were suffered in 1931.

1. The pale western cutworm moth lays its eggs in soft soil during August and September.
2. Any fields in the shaded area which were harvested, pastured, cultivated, or where the surface soil was in any way disturbed so that there was a loose, dusty surface between August 1 and September 15, 1931, are liable to have cutworms in 1932. (North of the broken line on the map these dates should be a week earlier, namely July 25 to September 8.)
3. Any fields which were undisturbed so that the soil surface was caked or crusted from August 1 to September 15, 1931 (July 25 to September 8 in the Northern area) should be reasonably free of cutworms in 1932. Reseeded fields which were cut after September 15 in 1931 should be considered as safe if undisturbed during August. A large gopher population may cause an undisturbed field to be dusty during the egg-laying period.
4. The presence or absence of vegetation during the period of moth abundance has no effect in attracting moths to the fields for egg-laying.
5. If there is any doubt, within the area of expected cutworm outbreak, as to fields being free of cutworms, test the field by seeding an **indicator strip** of wheat diagonally across such fields.

Seed the **indicator strip** as soon as it is possible to get a drill on the land and long before regular seeding is started. One drill width is sufficient and the diagonal strip will give a fair sample of the conditions in the field. The weather conditions which will bring this grain to a height of about five inches will also hatch many of the eggs. The young cutworms will feed on the leaves or may cut off some of the plants. A close examination of the grain will show the signs of this feeding and if ten or fifteen plants per square yard show injury the field should not be seeded. Under normal conditions this strip will show whether or not cutworms are present by the end of the first week of May or earlier and seeding operations should be governed accordingly.
6. Do not reseed any crop, especially flax in fields which have been destroyed by cutworms as long as there are cutworms present and active.
7. Other insect pests, such as the red-backed cutworm, wireworms, and the wheat stem sawfly, also cause serious crop losses in the Prairie Provinces. It is quite possible that the red-backed cutworm will be a serious pest along the borders of the area infested by pale western cutworm and northward. Learn to know the insect pests; send in specimens for identification.
8. For detailed information write to the Dominion Entomological Laboratories at Treesbank, Manitoba; Indian Head, Saskatoon and Assiniboia, Saskatchewan; Lethbridge and Morrin, Alberta; or to the Department of Agriculture at Regina, Saskatchewan; or Edmonton, Alta.